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EGREMONT LOCAL BOARD.



## ANNUAL REPORT

..... ON THE .....

# Public Health

OF EGREMONT,

FOR THE YEAR 1893,

..... BY .....

GEORGE CALDERWOOD, M.P.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Egremont:

WILLIAMS BROS., Printers, Stationers, &c., Market Place.



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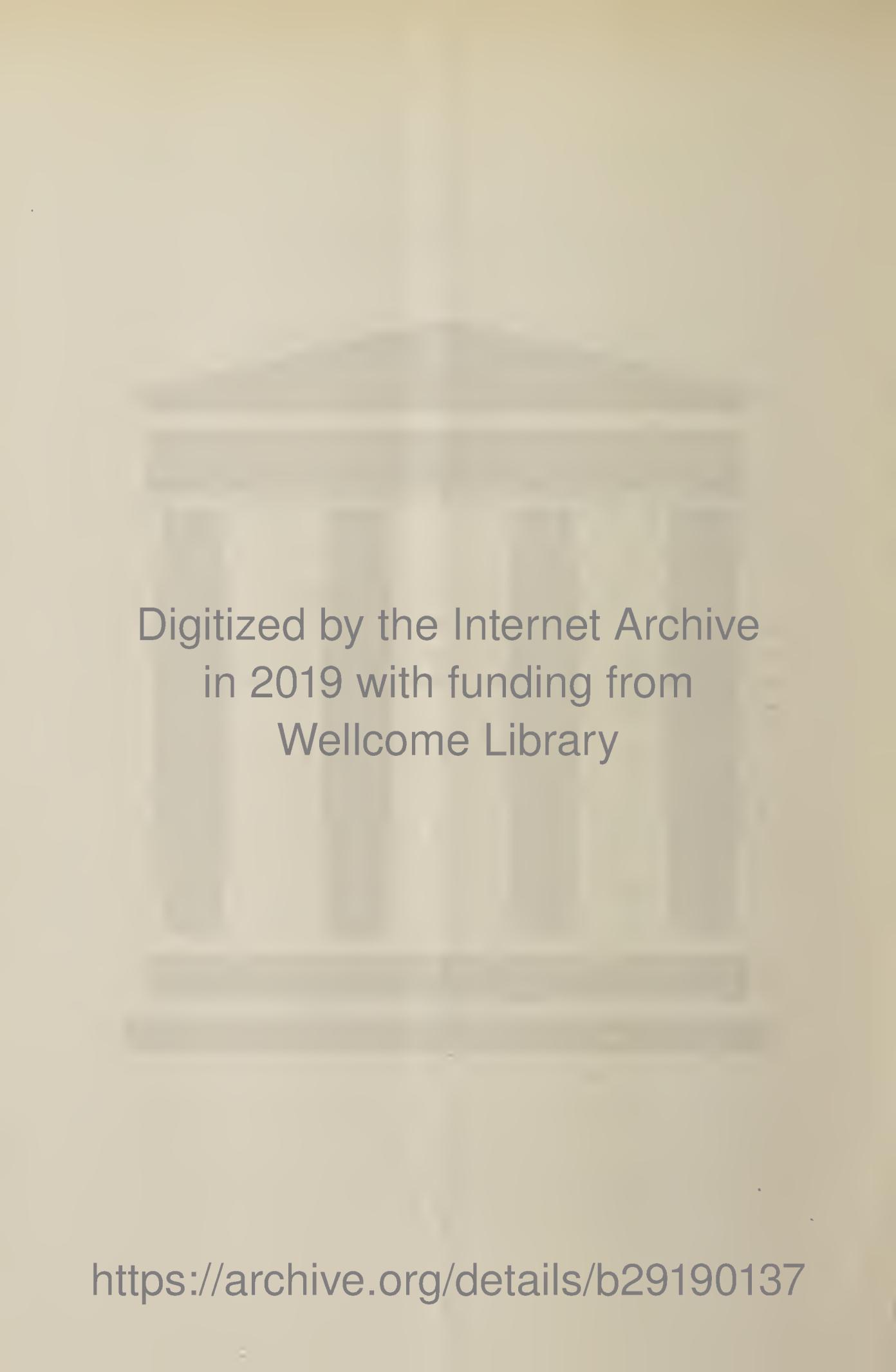
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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## To the Egremont Local Board.

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GENTLEMEN,—

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1893. During the past year we have suffered in common with most other districts from diseases of an epidemic character.

In my annual report for the year 1892, I remarked on the prevalence of small-pox in the country generally, and advocated the protective power of vaccination, and re-vaccination. In making this recommendation, I had in view the possibility of the disease being imported into our midst. Early in the year this possibility became a fact.

In the latter part of January, a young man, a native of Egremont, arrived in his native place, and two days after was taken ill. He came from Derbyshire where he had been working, and where small-pox prevailed. His illness turned out to be small-pox. As soon as the nature of the disease showed itself, we had him removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Galemire. The other inmates of the house (4 in number) were re-vaccinated, and the house was fumigated, and washed thoroughly with disinfectants. The bedding and other clothing was also disinfected or destroyed, and the walls lime-washed.

I am pleased to say that these measures were effectual, and no second case occurred.

During the greater part of the year, whooping-cough has been epidemic in one or more parts of the district. In the month of April a few cases appeared at Moor Row. In the course of a month the number of cases increased, and in May and June it was distinctly epidemic.

The season of the year being favourable for such an illness, the disease ran its course in a very mild form, so mild indeed that in most cases no medical attendance was sought. By July it had practically disappeared from Moor Row and neighbourhood, and about the same time it appeared in the town of Egremont.

It quickly became epidemic in the latter place, and though at first mild, it subsequently, with the approach of severer weather, assumed a more aggravated form. Whooping-cough is chiefly fatal through the chest complications that arise in connection with it, and these complications are more apt to arise in the cold winter and spring months.

Three deaths arose from this disease during the year, and all in the town of Egremont. I have no hesitation in saying that had Egremont been as fortunate as Moor Row in having the disease epidemic during the summer months, it would have been equally fortunate in escaping fatal results. In the summer, whooping-cough is mild in character, and short in duration, in winter and spring it is a most severe illness, often lasting all the winter through, till the approach of finer weather.

We have also suffered during the year from an epidemic of scarlet fever. The scarlet fever first appeared in the month of July. The greatest number of cases occurred in the months of September, October and November. Though a few cases appeared at Moor Row and Bigrigg, the greatest number occurred at Egremont. Of 53 cases in all, 2 occurred at Bigrigg, 5 at Moor Row, and 46 at Egremont. The epidemic was of a mild type, and during the year no death resulted from it. We have not had an epidemic of scarlet

fever for a considerable time, though a year seldom passes without a few sporadic cases occurring. Scarlet fever is not nearly so apt to become epidemic as measles or whooping-cough. When a few cases of measles or whooping-cough appear, it is almost sure to become epidemic, if the infant population be not protected by a previous attack. It is quite different with scarlet fever, and my annual reports for many years back show the existence of this disease sporadically, though we had no epidemic. On the other hand scarlet fever, though not so apt to become epidemic, when it does become so, takes a much longer time to run its course. This feature was well brought out in the present epidemic, for although it has been prevalent more or less for the last seven months, there are still a few cases occurring. In all these cases isolation and disinfection has been carried out, and in addition the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, in our annual inspection, had all houses in which such cases had occurred fumigated with sulphur, where this had not already been done.

We have also during the year suffered from an epidemic of Influenza. The last great epidemic of this disease occurred in the year 1891.

On looking over my annual report for that year, I find that it was prevalent during the months of May and June. It is a disease which runs its course very rapidly. It comes upon us with a rush, reaches its acme in a month, and is gone in another month, leaving, however, many people in a weak and feeble condition for a considerable time. The present epidemic appeared about the middle of October at Moor Row, but though appearing there first, it was less severe there than at Egremont. During the month of November the whole district suffered from this scourge, and by the end of December it had practically gone. The epidemic was of a sharp and severe nature, though I do not think it was so wide spread or virulent as the epidemic from which we suffered in 1891.

Amongst the deaths only four are put down as having been due to Influenza. This, however, is no measure of the

fatality of the disease. In reference to this point, I was much struck by the very high death-rate that prevailed during the epidemic of 1891. In that year the death-rate of the months of May and June, the months of the epidemic, was 24.9 and 34.5 respectively. In ordinary times the death-rate of these months is not more than 7 or 8 per 1000 per annum. As during these months only 9 deaths were registered as being due to Influenza, the question arises, what caused the extraordinary increase in the deaths from other causes? Why are other illnesses not connected with Influenza attended with such a fatality at these times? We cannot help being driven to the conclusion, that the presence of Influenza in the epidemic form has a potent and baneful influence on diseases of every description, from which any one may unfortunately be suffering during the period of the epidemic. It would almost appear as if the atmosphere was loaded with the poison of the disease, that all inhaled it more or less, that some were not affected by it, unless unfortunately they should contract some illness, when they had to fight not only that illness, but the Influenza as well, which was unconsciously behind it, and which had been stirred into activity by the illness. Be that as it may, there is no doubt about the fact that the chances of recovery from any illness during the prevalence of Influenza are less than at other times. We can go even further than that, and say, that as the death-rate at these times is three times the usual death-rate, the chances of recovery are just one-third that of ordinary times. The moral to be derived from this, is that every one should take the greatest possible care of health during the prevalence of Influenza. The exercise of care might not prevent you taking Influenza, but it might prevent you getting cold, which, under the unfavourable and provocative conditions prevailing, was more liable to develop into Bronchitis or Pneumonia.

During the present year, the two months in which the epidemic prevailed had a death rate of 28.5 and 33.8 respectively, and as already mentioned only four deaths were due to Influenza. This death-rate, like that of 1891, is much in excess of the usual one, and similarly, other diseases have a

malignity they do not possess at other times. The four deaths from Influenza do not account for the excess, nor do I believe it can be accounted for in any other way, than by the theory I have advanced.

During the year 102 deaths occurred in the whole district. This gives a general death-rate of 16.19 per 1000 per annum. For the year 1892 the corresponding death rate was 16.34.

The number of births registered during the year was 205, —109 boys and 96 girls,---giving a birth-rate of 32.53 per 1000 per annum.

During the year five deaths arose from diseases of a Zymotic character, giving a Zymotic death-rate of 0.79 per 1000 per annum. Of the five deaths one was due to croup, three to whooping-cough, and one to dysentry. The Zymotic death-rate for last year was 2.06 per 1000 per annum.

The number of deaths in children under five years of age amounted to 39, giving to this class a death-rate of 6.19 per 1000 per annum. The corresponding death-rate for last year was 7.30 per 1000 per annum.

Under the age of one year 22 children died, and 21 persons died at 65 years and upwards. The former gives an infantile death-rate of 3.49, and the latter a senile death-rate of 3.33 per 1000 per annum.

A scrutiny of the table of "New cases of Sickness," shows, as might be expected, that Whooping-cough, Scarlatina and Influenza occupy the foremost place. In the case of Scarlatina alone of the three diseases, are the figures accurate, as this is the only one necessary to report under the compulsory Notification Act. The whooping-cough cases are those that occurred in my own practice, or otherwise came to my knowledge. As regards the cases of Influenza I should judge that one-fourth of the population suffered from it.

One case of Small-pox, two of Typhoid Fever, two of Croup, and four of Erysipelas complete the list. The houses in which the Typhoid cases occurred were examined by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and were found to be free from anything approaching a nuisance.

I now give the vital statistics of the four divisions into which the district is naturally divided.

### *EGREMONT.*

Sixty-eight of the 102 deaths occurred in the town of Egremont, giving to this place a death-rate of 16.19 per 1000 per annum. Of the 68 deaths 15 occurred in children under 1 year, 13 in children 1 and under 5 years, 7 between 5 and 15 years, none between 15 and 25 years, 21 between 25 and 65 years, and 12 at 65 years and upwards. Twenty-eight deaths occurred in children under 5 years of age, giving an infantile death-rate of 6.66 per 1000 per annum. The deaths at 65 years and upwards, 12, give a senile death-rate of 2.85 per 1000 per annum.

### *BIGRIGG.*

Of the 102 deaths 7 occurred at Bigrigg, giving a death-rate of 10.93 per 1000 per annum. Of the 7 deaths 2 occurred in children under 1 year, none between 1 and 5 years, none between 5 and 15 years, none between 15 and 25 years, 4 between 25 and 65 years, and 1 at 65 years and upwards. The deaths under 5 years of age amount to 2, and 1 death occurred at 65 years and upwards. The former giving an infantile death-rate of 3.12, and the latter a senile death-rate of 1.56 per 1000 per annum.

### *SCALEGILL.*

Four of the 102 deaths occurred at Scalegill, giving a death-rate of 13.33 per 1000 per annum. Of the 4 deaths none occurred under 1 year, 1 between 1 and 5 years, 1 between 5 and 15 years, none between 15 and 25 years, 2 between 25 and 65 years, and none at 65 years and upwards. In the case of Scalegill the infantile and senile death-rate were nil.

### *MOOR ROW.*

Of the 102 deaths 23 occurred at Moor Row, giving to this place a death-rate of 19.82 per 1000 per annum. Of the 23 deaths 5 occurred in children under 1 year, 3 between 1 and 5 years, 3 between 5 and 15 years, none between 15 and 25

years, 4 between 25 and 65 years, and 8 at 65 years and upwards. Eight deaths occurred in children under 5 years, giving an infantile death-rate of 6.89 per 1000 per annum. The senile death-rate was similar.

During the year considerable improvements have been effected in the sanitary condition of the district. All the houses in Bridge-end—the latest addition to the Urban Sanitary District of Egremont—have, with two exceptions, not only been connected with the sewer, but where necessary supplied with water-closets. These exceptions will be reported to the Board by the Sanitary Inspector, and I hope such action will be taken as will result in the houses being sewered and having water-closets.

At Moor Row, John-street, William-street, and Back John-street, have been put in a proper state of repair and the pavements well channelled. This is a great improvement, and the work has been done in a most thorough and permanent manner. A further improvement will shortly be effected at this place, when the contemplated sewer has been completed. The gullies connected with the present temporary sewer are in numerous cases defective and untrapped. I strongly recommend these matters to be put right at the same time as the new sewer is being formed. By so doing, expense will not only be saved but the work will be better when completed.

At Scalegill the privies previously reported have been converted into water-closets, and a great improvement has thereby been effected.

I am glad to be able to report that our sewers continue to work effectually, and that our water supply is abundant and pure.

During the year the Inspector of Nuisances and myself have made frequent inspections where nuisances were reported, or where diseases of an infectious character existed. We have also made a systematic house to house inspection of the district. As the result of these inspections, I am glad to

say that the condition of the district, so far as nuisances are concerned, leaves little to be desired. I do not think I am going beyond the truth, when I say that when we do find a nuisance it is not the fault of the sanitary conditions existing, but a temporary affair produced by untidy or dirty tenants.

During the year I have presented twelve Reports to the Board, concerning the health of the district, and other sanitary matters. Twenty-nine printed notices, thirteen written ones, and twenty eight verbal ones have been sent by the Inspector of Nuisances to property owners, or their agents, to make improvements and remove nuisances. These, with one or two exceptions, have been attended to, and the matter remedied.

Through the kindness of Mr. W. H. WATSON, of Braystones, and Mr. ADDISON, of Park House, Bigrigg, I am again able to give the Rainfall for the year at Braystones, on the west coast, and Bigrigg, Egremont.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours, &c.,

GEORGE CALDERWOOD, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*TABLE I.—Births.*

205 or 32.53 per 1000 per annum.

*TABLE II.—Deaths at all ages.*

102 or 16.19 per 1000 per annum.

*TABLE III.—Deaths under 5 years of age.*

39 or 6.19 per 1000 per annum.

*TABLE IV.—Showing per centage of Infant and Senile Deaths.*

Deaths under 1 year—22 or 3.49 per 1000 per annum.

Deaths at 65 years and upwards—21 or 3.33 per 1000 per annum.

*TABLE V.—Deaths from the Principal Zymotic Diseases.*

5 or 0.79 per 1000 per annum.

Small-pox.....	0
Scarlatina.....	0
Diphtheria.....	0
Membranous Croup.....	1
Typhus Fever.....	0
Typhoid Fever.....	0
Whooping-Cough.....	3
Measles.....	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentry.....	1
Erysipelas.....	0
Puerperal Fever.....	0
	—
	5

*TABLE VI.—Showing the General Death-rate in the separate Localities.*

Egremont .....	68 or 16.19 per 1000 per annum.
Bigrigg .....	7 or 10.93      "      "
Sealegill .....	4 or 13.33      "      "
Moor Row .....	23 or 19.82      "      "

*TABLE VII.—Showing the Zymotic Death-rate in the separate Localities.*

Egremont .....	5 or 0.79 per 1000 per annum.
Bigrigg .....	Nil.
Sealegill .....	Nil.
Moor Row .....	Nil.

TABLE VIII.—*Showing the Death, Birth, and Zymotic Rate since the year 1880.*

	DEATHS.	BIRTHS.	ZYMOTIC.
1880	165 or 27.5 per 1000 per an.	230 or 38.3 per 1000 per an.	12 or 2.0 per 1000 per an.
1881	97 or 16.1 ,	248 or 40.0 ,	6 or 1.0 ,
1882	99 or 16.5 ,	269 or 44.83 ,	7 or 1.16 ,
1883		I have not been able to procure the returns for this year.	
1884*	97 or 16.1 per 1000 per an.	231 or 38.5 per 1000 per an.	11 or 1.8 per 1000 per an.
1885	88 or 13.53 ,	236 or 36.3 ,	8 or 1.2 ,
1886	89 or 13.69 ,	229 or 35.2 ,	8 or 1.2 ,
1887	123 or 18.9 ,	199 or 30.15 ,	25 or 3.8 ,
1888	79 or 12.15 ,	234 or 36.0 ,	8 or 1.23 ,
1889	87 or 12.46 ,	250 or 38.46 ,	2 or 0.37 ,
1890	85 or 12.78 ,	210 or 31.57 ,	8 or 1.20 ,
1891	88 or 13.96 ,	228 or 36.19 ,	5 or 0.79 ,
1892	103 or 16.34 ,	200 or 31.74 ,	13 or 2.06 ,
1893	102 or 16.19 ,	205 or 32.55 ,	5 or 0.79 ,

(\*)—The first year of Water Supply and Sewerage.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year, 1893, in the Urban Sanitary District of EGREMONT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a.)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.				New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.												Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
	Census 1891 (b.)	Estimated to middle of 1893. (c.)	Registered Births. (d.)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e.)	Small-pox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Croup. 4	Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued 7	Relapsing. 8	Puerperal. 9	Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	Whooping-Cough. 12	13	Small-pox. 1	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Croup. 4	Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued 7	Relapsing. 8	Puerperal. 9	Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11	12
			205																										
Egremont ... ... ...	4200	4200		Under 5		18		1																					
			5 & upwds.	1	28			2									2	59											
Bigrigg ... ... ...	640	640		Under 5		2													3										
			5 & upwds.														1	7										None	
Scallegill ... ... ...	300	300		Under 5														2											
			5 & upwds.														3												
Moor Row ... ... ..	1160	1160		Under 5		2		1										10											
			5 & upwds.		3												1	17											
TOTAL ... ... ...	6300	6300	205	Under 5		22		2									4	45											
			5 & upwds.	1	31			2									4	86											

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District,—Yes. Since when? January 1st, 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notified in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Galemire Hospital, close to but not in the District. It is in the District of the Rural Sanitary Authority of Whitehaven.



TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1893, IN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF EGREMONT; CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

LOCALITIES NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all Causes at subjoined Ages.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																				
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	(i.)	Small-pox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Typhus.	6 Enteric or Typhoid.	7 Continued	8 Relapsing.	9 Puerperal.	10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Measles.	13 Whooping- Cough.	14 Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	15 Rheumatic Fever.	16 Ague.	17 Phthisis.	18 Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	19 Heart Disease.	20 Injuries.	21 All other Diseases.
(a.)	(b.)	(c.)	(d.)	(e.)	(f.)	(g.)	(h.)																						
Egremont ... ... ...	68	15	13	7	0	21	12	Under 5				1															16	28	
								5 & upwds.																			1	21	40
Bigrigg ... ... ...	7	2	0	0	0	4	1	Under 5																				2	2
								5 & upwds.																			1	4	5
Scallegill ... ... ...	4	0	1	1	0	2	0	Under 5																			1	1	1
								5 & upwds.																			2	2	3
Moor Row ... ... ...	23	5	3	3	0	4	8	Under 5				1															1	7	8
								5 & upwds.																			2	2	10
TOTAL ... ... ...	102	22	17	11	0	31	21	Under 5				1														6	9	25	39
								5 & upwds.																			1	37	63



# Rainfall in Cumberland.

## BRAYSTONES, CUMBERLAND.

The following are the statistics of Rainfall and Evaporation taken at Braystones in the year 1893 :—

	Rain.	Evaporation.
January	0.96 inches.	1.08 inches.
February	5.62 "	0.95 "
March	1.31 "	2.33 "
April	0.64 "	3.52 "
May	2.29 "	4.07 "
June	1.02 "	5.06 "
July	3.24 "	4.52 "
August	4.76 "	3.55 "
September	2.83 "	2.29 "
October	5.51 "	0.96 "
November	1.97 "	1.04 "
December	4.02 "	1.01 "
 Total	 34.17 inches.	 30.38 inches.

The rain in the year 1893 was 3.13 inches less than in the year 1892, and 2.17 inches less than the average of the previous 29 years. The evaporation was 3.67 inches greater than in the year 1892, and exactly 1 inch more than the average of the previous 29 years.

W. H. WATSON.

Braystones, January 2nd, 1894.

## BIGRIGG, EGREMONT, CUMBERLAND.

	Rain.
January	1.210 inches.
February	5.625 "
March	1.785 "
April	0.865 "
May	3.025 "
June	2.365 "
July	4.305 "
August	6.930 "
September	3.345 "
October	6.380 "
November	2.805 "
December	5.385 "
 Total	 44.025 inches.
Total of 1892	48.230 inches.
Total of 1893	44.025 "
 Difference	 4.205 inches.

P. L. ADDISON.

Park House, Bigrigg, January, 1894.

## Rainfall and Evaporation since 1863, at Braystones, near Whitehaven, Cumberland.

	Rain.	Evaporation.
	Inches.	Inches.
1864	35.02	28.93
1865	33.20	30.07
1866	40.80	30.19
1867	33.24	28.73
1868	35.65	33.85
1869	40.77	32.07
1870	31.17	30.87
1871	32.92	31.06
1872	51.91	30.09
1873	36.62	29.75
1874	37.84	30.47
1875	34.61	28.97
1876	37.81	36.81
1877	58.52	36.49
1878	30.69	32.43
1879	31.58	26.21
1880	27.21	32.03
1881	35.42	25.98
1882	41.82	30.39
1883	38.95	29.38
1884	36.59	30.86
1885	33.55	28.27
1887	20.22	22.80
1888	29.46	23.02
1889	30.48	29.74
1890	41.23	25.76
1891	39.46	26.38
1892	37.30	26.71
1893	34.17	30.38

W. H. WATSON.





